

## ARTS ED BRIEFS

### Save the Date! Montana Teaching Artist Weekend

The Montana Arts Council and the Holter Museum of Art are hosting a professional development and networking opportunity for teaching artists serving schools and communities across Montana April 17-18 in Helena.

Teaching artists fill a critical need for arts education for learners young and old in the Big Sky. Join the Montana Arts Council and Holter Museum of Art in Helena for a professional development opportunity that will help you sharpen your skills as an artist, educator and advocate for high-quality arts education for all Montana students.

This opportunity is open to teaching artists of all disciplines who provide hands-on learning experiences to learners in school, after school, and in non-traditional learning environments.

Highlights of the weekend will include an opening reception Friday night at the Holter Museum of Art with a keynote speaker to be announced, and opportunities for teaching artists to network with each other. Saturday's agenda includes workshops on topics including the arts and the brain, marketing your skills, and building strong school and community partnerships.

The full agenda will be announced soon. Registration is free, but limited to 40 total participants. Lodging will be available at the discounted state rate to all participants.

Registration will open Feb. 2. Check the MAC website at [www.art.mt.gov](http://www.art.mt.gov) at that time for information on how to register. Contact Emily Kohring at [ekohring@mt.gov](mailto:ekohring@mt.gov) with questions.

### Artist in Schools and Communities grant cycle opens for FY2016

Guidelines for the FY16 Artists in Schools and Communities program will be available on the MAC website beginning Jan. 2 for projects beginning July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

The Montana Arts Council strives to provide access to quality arts learning to develop the creative potential of Montanans of all ages. Towards that end, the Artists in Schools and Communities program provides matching funds that support a wide range of arts learning experiences and artist residencies for participants of all ages with professional working artists, as well as other special projects that support arts learning in schools and community settings.

The FY16 grant cycle features a notable change over previous years. Rather than a rolling deadline for grant applicants, there will be one deadline for all grant requests over \$1,500 in the Arts Learning Experience, Artist Residency, and Special Projects categories. **This deadline will be April 6, 2015. Grant requests over \$1,500 submitted after the April 6 deadline will not be considered.**

The deadline for all organizations in the Arts Learning Partner category will be April 13, 2015. Arts Learning Partners are select Montana arts organizations that have a proven record of providing high-quality arts learning experiences to participants both regionally and across the state of Montana.

Grants up to \$10,000 are available and must be matched 1:1 with other funds (MAC will provide a 2:1 match for first-time applicants, Class C schools, or small rural schools supervised by a county superintendent). For complete guidelines, please see our website.

To discuss an idea for a potential arts learning project, contact Emily Kohring, director of Arts Education, at 406-444-6522 or [ekohring@mt.gov](mailto:ekohring@mt.gov).

## Montana Teacher Leaders (from page 1)

"The Montana Teacher Leaders project will add an exciting new professional learning opportunity for all teachers across our great state to integrate the arts into their classrooms and spark creative, engaged and joyful teaching and learning for all learners" says Jael Prezeau, division administrator for Content Standards and Instruction at OPI.

In the creation of the Teacher Leaders in the Arts Initiative, MAC Director of Arts Education Emily Kohring researched arts-based professional development initiatives happening in other states to seek out models that could possibly be replicated in Montana. After internet research, phone interviews with colleagues, and a site visit to the Alaska Basic Arts Institute this past summer, Kohring brought back some ideas to share with OPI staff.

Integrating her ideas with OPI's strategic plan for professional learning for educators, a plan was developed jointly to help overcome one of the unique challenges of our state: geography. In a state as large as Montana, how do you ensure an opportunity available to a teacher in Missoula is also available to a teacher in Wolf Point?

In its first year, Teacher Leaders in the Arts will recruit up to 18 teachers evenly distributed across OPI's nine professional learning regions statewide. Teachers Leader candidates will come to a 10-day summer institute at Salish Kootenai College, where they will be deeply immersed in multi-disciplinary arts integration tools and strategies, brain theory, ideas for building creative classrooms, STEAM learning, and cultural arts led by master teaching artists and educators.

Teacher Leader candidates will return to

their regions, where they will receive a stipend to support a field project in arts learning during the school year. Technology then becomes the source of connectivity for the Teacher Leader candidates spread across the state, as they gather monthly as an online professional learning

community to share how they are implementing what they are learning. They will also receive bimonthly webinars on selected topics in arts learning, led by leaders in the field.

At the end of the school year, the first-year cohort will be identified as a Teacher Leader in the Arts in their region. A Teacher

Leader in the Arts will be ready to serve as a resource to other educators to help them implement arts-based learning in the classroom. Teacher Leaders will also serve as champions for arts learning in their regions, advocating for greater access to arts learning opportunities for all of Montana's K-12 students.

The first-year cohort of Teacher Leaders in the Arts will also help plan and execute the second year of activities for the initiative. In year two, the program will place a special focus on teachers in schools with less than 100 students, as well as those with a majority American Indian population.

For the first-year cohort, the program seeks Montana K-12 arts specialists in visual art, music or theatre; professional teaching artists with significant K-12 public school experience; school principals or administrators; and retired arts specialists. Classroom teachers with a strong background and comfort in the arts will also be considered.

To receive an application, contact Emily Kohring, director of Arts Education at MAC, 406-444-6522 or [ekohring@mt.gov](mailto:ekohring@mt.gov).

For the first-year cohort, the program seeks Montana K-12 arts specialists in visual art, music or theatre; professional teaching artists with significant K-12 public school experience; school principals or administrators; and retired arts specialists.

### Humanities Montana lists grant recipients

Humanities Montana awarded grants to organizations and communities across Montana for programs focused on bringing the humanities to Montana citizens, from book and film festivals to oral history projects and significant lecture series.

Recipients include:

• **Martin Luther King Day Event Series, Bozeman:** \$3,500 to bring nationally acclaimed artist, author, speaker and social-justice advocate Robert Shetterly to Bozeman as the 2015 Martin Luther King Day lecturer.

• **High Plains BookFest, Billings Cultural Partnership:** \$1,500 for the 12th annual High Plains BookFest and Book Awards, which included readings, workshops, panel discussions and the Montana Poetry Slam, Oct. 23-25 in downtown Billings.

• **Carroll College Undergraduate Literary Festival, Helena:** \$1,300 for literary readings, discussions, and literary analyses by Carroll and other Montana colleges' undergraduate students, Nov. 12-13.

• **"Cultural Perspectives on the Land," Gardiner:** \$2,860 for guest speakers who talk to students, parents, and the community about the land and its resources from cultural and traditional perspectives.

• **"Guns – From Debate to Dialog," Montana Mediation Association, Butte:** \$5,000 for a facilitated dialog that brings together community leaders with opposing viewpoints about guns with the expressed intention to change the quality of public discourse from divisive and polarizing debate into a positive and powerful exchange of ideas, starting in Butte and expanding to Helena and Bozeman.

• **"Latino America, Latino Montana," Montana State University, Bozeman:** \$2,250 for a new lecture series sponsored by the Latino Studies program in the MSU Department of Modern Languages and Literatures to engage the community and state on the issues facing Latinos in America and in Montana.

• **World War I Lecture Series, Montana State University Billings:** \$500 for a free,

educational community lecture series that commemorates the 100-year anniversary of the outbreak of World War I, highlighting the expertise of the MSU Billings faculty from a variety of disciplines.

• **"The Driftwood Feeling" by Metamorph Films:** \$3,000 for a 30-minute portrait documentary of Crow Indian poet Henry Real Bird, former Poet Laureate of Montana, told from a beat-poet's perspective, and contemplating cultural identity and interdependence in the 21st century.

• **"Bard in the Backcountry," Friends of Montana PBS:** \$2,900 for a documentary film that follows Montana Shakespeare in the Parks' traveling troupe of actors through the landscape of Montana, bringing Shakespeare to tiny rural communities.

• **"Living with Vermiculite: Personal Perspectives," The Heritage Museum, Libby:** \$3,500 for a museum exhibit consisting of 19 video interviews and transcriptions of community members talking about the tragic losses and the restoration of hope in relation to Zonolite Vermiculite in Lincoln County.

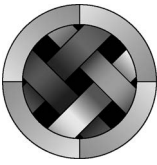
• **Big Sky Documentary Film Festival, Missoula:** \$3,690 for the festival's uniquely American film strand, "Vietnam: Commemorated through the Lens," planned for the 2015 festival in February.

• **"The Power of Our Ideas," Stone Child College, Box Elder:** \$1,000 for the makers of the feature film "Winter in the Blood" to attend a screening, discussion, and workshop on storytelling through film. Students from across the state are invited to discuss the power of the Native American voice and invent ways to make that voice heard.

• **The Children's Festival of the Book in Bozeman:** \$1,000 for the seventh annual festival at the Bozeman Public Library, which introduces young readers and adults to award-winning authors and illustrators.

Book discussion groups in Glendive, Bozeman, Choteau and Darby also received funding.

Learn more at [humanitiesmontana.org](http://humanitiesmontana.org).



7

### What makes donors give

Guidestar recently published "Top Strategic Mistakes Nonprofits Make" by Allan Pressel. While it's all worth reading, we especially liked this excerpt from Part 2 in the November 2014 issue:

#### 5. Failing to understand what makes donors give

If you examine what makes donors give, here are two factors that consistently bubble to the top:

The first is feeling like they're making a difference. The closer you can tie donor action to results – past, present, and future results – the more likely you are to get more people to give more. Consider these two scenarios:

In scenario one, you simply ask someone to donate \$100, perhaps online.

In scenario two, you first demonstrate that \$100 can house a woman and her children in your domestic violence shelter for one week – and THEN you ask donors for their \$100. Or better yet, you permit them to choose one of the women in your shelter (names redacted for privacy, of course) and sponsor her and her kids for one week for \$100. In that case donors might even get periodic updates on how their sponsees are doing, or a thank-you note directly from them.

Now, in which of these scenarios do you think the donor is more likely to give?!

Find the full article at [www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org).